

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims have been amended to more clearly point out the present invention. All the claims presently on file are in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

THE CLAIMS

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 26 and 38 were objected to for containing certain informalities. Claims 26 and 38 as amended satisfy the requirements of 35 USC 112.

CLAIMS REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 101

Claims 1, 19, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 on the ground that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 19, and 31 as amended satisfy the requirements of 35 USC 101.

CLAIMS REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claims 3, 7, 11, 21, 25, 29, 33, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 3, 7, 11, 21, 25, 29, 33, and 37 as amended satisfy the requirements of 35 USC 112.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claims 15-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite all the limitations of the allowable claim 15, including all the limitations of the intervening claims, with the exception of the following element (of the canceled claim 5):

"wherein the federation layer contains an object ID database for mapping between a file name and a unique object ID number;".
This element has been modified to more clearly select the term "unique" that modifies the element "object ID database".

Claim 16 has been rewritten in the allowable format, as suggested by the Examiner, with the exception of the canceled claim 5, as discussed above.

As a result, claims 1 and 16 and the claims dependent thereon are allowable.

In addition, claim 19 has been amended to recite the limitations of the allowable claim 1. New claim 42 has been added, and recites the limitations of the allowable claim 16. Claim 31 has been amended to recite the limitations of the allowable claim 1. New claim 41 has been added, and recites the limitations of the allowable claim 16. As a result, claims 19, 31, 41, and 42 and the claims dependent thereon are allowable.

CLAIMS REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 10-14, 19-20, 23-24, 28-30, 31-32, 35-36, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pub. No. US2004/0030731A1 to Iftode, et al. in view of US Patent No. 6,938,039 to Bober, et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and submit that the cited references do not disclose all the elements and limitations of the claims on file as a whole. Nonetheless, this rejection has now become moot in view of the allowance of the claims on file.

CONCLUSION

All the claims presently on file in the present application are in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If it is felt for any reason that direct communication would serve to advance prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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